

SOUTH FLORIDA ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION TASK FORCE

Office of the Executive Director

5/7/2004

Marti Allbright, Chair,
South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force

Dear Ms. Allbright:

The CSOP Advisory Team is charged with assisting the Task Force in providing recommendations to the Corps during key phases in the CSOP process and, by doing so, to increase stakeholder participation in the CSOP process. The Team met for its seventh meeting on April 26-27, 2004 to review and consider adoption of its list of performance expectations of the CSOP. After reviewing the draft list of performance expectations the team amended and voted to adopt each individual performance expectation through its consensus process (see list in enclosure 1). The next step was to vote to adopt the list of consensus performance expectations to serve as an interim report to the Task Force.

At the conclusion of the meeting on April 27th there was disagreement among members on an assumption relating to the purpose, required capacity, and future potential use of pump station S-356. As a result of the disagreement, the consensus performance expectations/interim report failed to garner consensus support of the voting members. In the discussion following the vote, the Team agreed the Chair should report to the Task Force that the Team was at an impasse until the issues surrounding the S-356 pump station were resolved. It was suggested that obtaining official agency positions on the issues as well as any appropriate guidance from the Task Force may help get the process moving again so that the interim report can be finalized. The Team's next meeting is scheduled for June 18-19, 2004.

It is my opinion that the CSOP Advisory Team made tremendous progress in developing a list of performance expectations. Through this process the Team developed an enriched understanding of the unique perspectives of the stakeholders involved with these projects. This insight will be of tremendous benefit to the Task Force once the impasse is resolved. I have enclosed an update on the Team's membership for you review and consideration (enclosure 2). We look forward to assisting the Task Force with this important effort.

Sincerely,

Carol Rist, Chair,
CSOP Advisory Team

Enclosure (2) a/s

cc: Members of the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force

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Enclosure 1

CONSIDERING THE DISCOMFORT OF SEVERAL TEAM MEMBERS, REGARDING THE ASSUMPTION ABOUT THE PUMP STATION S-356, THE FOLLOWING IS THE DRAFT LIST OF PERFORMANCE EXPECTATIONS DEVELOPED AND ADOPTED BY THE CSOP ADVISORY TEAM.

OVERALL CSOP ADVISORY TEAM EXPECTATIONS FOR SUCCESS

- A. The CSOP will respond to the final consensus recommendations of the CSOP Advisory Team.
- B. The CSOP Advisory Team, consistent with its adopted consensus guidelines, will seek consensus decisions on their package of advisory recommendations to the Task Force and preserve the opportunity for minority views to be expressed and recorded in the appendix of the final document.
- C. The CSOP, as designed and implemented, will advance Everglades Restoration and be consistent with the broader goals of CERP.

CSOP TEAM ASSUMPTIONS

- D. All stakeholders will be treated fairly.
- E. The Army Corps of Engineers will provide, clarify and quantify all data necessary for the CSOP Advisory Team to make informed decisions.
- F. All natural areas within the project's area of influence are important.
- G. Additional features for improved flood protection shall not harm the Park and shall be consistent with restoration of natural water flows.
- H. The CSOP will provide access to levee and canal ways for appropriate recreational uses consistent with the Congressionally authorized purposes of these projects and the recreational policy of the SFWMD

WCA 3A & 3B PERFORMANCE EXPECTATIONS

- 1. Move towards rainfall driven natural flows and levels and move toward natural connectivity of WCA 3A 3B and NE Shark River Slough while reducing unnatural frequencies and duration of extreme high and low events.
- 2. Move toward restoration of all natural habitats within WCA 3A and WCA 3B to include tree islands and ridge and slough, and strive to restore historical hydrologic/ecological connection throughout the South Florida ecosystem.
- 3. Avoid flooding impacts on agricultural and urban areas caused by seepage out of WCA 3B and diversion of flows to the S Dade conveyance system.
- 4. Consistent with restoration goals, maintain and improve public access to and connectivity within WCA 3A and WCA 3B for current recreational and other activities

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which are vital to the traditional Everglades “sportsperson” culture. Emphasis should be placed on modifications to the L-67 canals.

5. If and when CSOP induces additional flows into and through WCA 3A, WCA 3B, and Everglades National Park to improve water deliveries and provide ecological benefits, ensure that these inflows meet all applicable water quality standards.
6. Protect Tribal natural and trust resources vital to their traditional culture and way of life by restoring more natural water levels in WCA 3A

8.5 SQUARE MILE AREA PERFORMANCE EXPECTATIONS

7. The Plan will provide flood protection for the residents of the 8.5 Square Mile Area and hydrological benefits for Everglades National Park, as authorized by Congress in the Everglades National Park Protection and Expansion Act of 1989, and subsequent amendments. *(Note concerns expressed after adoption with the correct reference to the authorization by Congress of 6D in 2003).*
8. Consistent with the benefits of both Mod Waters and C-111 projects, the operations of S 357 and its STA will minimize seepage into L-31 N.
9. The CSOP will be developed so that there will be no reduction in flood protection due to project implementation east of the 8.5 SMA (between G-211 and S-331).
10. The Corps and/or SFWMD will comply with all applicable water quality standards for the water bodies receiving outflows from the 8.5 SMA.

DETENTION AND BUFFER AREAS IN SOUTHERN PART OF SYSTEM PERFORMANCE EXPECTATIONS

11. These project elements were designed to restore historic hydrologic conditions in the Taylor Slough and Rocky Glades basins while providing flood protection. It is our expectation that objectives of better flood protection for the area east of the L-31N Canal and more natural hydrology along Eastern boundary of ENP will be met in accordance with the project design.
12. Performance of the buffer and detention areas is dependent on reduction of inter-basin transfers of seepage water from the Everglades, including S-331. Seepage from ENP should be returned to ENP, in the same general area from which it came.

TAYLOR SLOUGH PERFORMANCE EXPECTATIONS

13. The CSOP should restore historic hydrologic conditions in the Taylor Slough and Rocky Glades basins within ENP, and will be evaluated using a combination of hydrological and ecological measures. The Corps and/or SFWMD will comply with all applicable water quality standards.

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SHARK RIVER SLOUGH PERFORMANCE EXPECTATIONS

Preamble Language

- The Modified Waters Project cannot be considered complete until the hydrological connection is restored.
- The hydrological and ecological benefits of CSOP will be achieved without compromising public health and safety and/or flood control.
- Pursuant to Modified Waters Delivery Project, the U.S. DOI will remove the houses in the Park Expansion Area

Expectations

14. The CSOP will restore more natural hydrologic conditions in Shark River Slough and its downstream estuaries and will be evaluated using a combination of hydrological and ecological performance measures. The Corps and/or SFWMD will comply with all applicable water quality standards.
15. CSOP should consider whether water quality features are needed at the 356 pump station for Shark River Slough.
16. Tamiami Trail improvements must be completed, including the 3000 foot bridge and elevation of the remaining eastern segment of the road, before allowing significantly more water into Northeast Shark River Slough. This project component must be expedited and the remainder of the project components must be sequenced subject to this constraint. CSOP will analyze whether and how much water can be restored to Shark River Slough prior to full completion of the project without compromising flood protection.
17. The facilities of the Airboat Association of Florida will be provided appropriate flood mitigation.

FLORIDA BAY PERFORMANCE EXPECTATIONS

18. The plan should restore historic hydrologic conditions in the eastern panhandle basin of Everglades National Park by redirecting flows from C-111 basin to Taylor Slough. This will move towards appropriate salinity levels in Central and Northeast Florida Bay, while restoring historic hydrologic conditions in Taylor Slough and complying with applicable water quality standards.
19. The effects on Water Quality from changing flows to FL Bay, including potential nitrogen effects will be monitored. If a problem is detected, appropriate action will be taken
20. . The CSOP will eliminate damaging freshwater flows to Manatee Bay/Barnes Sound by reducing the need for discharges from S-197.
21. The C-111 N spreader canal will be constructed, as per the C-111 1994 GRR, as soon as possible.

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Enclosure 2

Below is a list of the voting members of the CSOP Advisory Team, and their alternates.

Stakeholder/Voting Members:

Carol Rist – League of Women Voters – Chair

Alternate: N/A

John Adornato – National Parks and Conservation Association

Alternate: Mary Munson, Director, FL NPCA

Medora Alleman – Resident, Grower

Alternate: N/A

Tad Burke – FL Keys Fishing Guides Assoc.

Alternate: Jerry Lorenz, FL Audubon

Loly Espino – St. Thomas University

Alternate: N/A

Freddy Fisikelli – Former President Everglades Coordinating Council

Alternate: N/A

Madeleine Fortin – 8.5 SMA Resident

Alternate: Tom Ruiz, Resident

Cynthia Guerra – Executive Director, Tropical Audubon Society

Alternate: N/A

Deborah Harrison – World Wildlife Fund

Alternate: Jerry Lorenz, FL Audubon

James Humble – Dade Agricultural Landowner

Alternate: N/A

Tom MacVicar – Agricultural Consultant

Alternate: Katie Edwards, Executive Director, Dade County Farm Bureau

Alice Pena – 8.5 SMA Resident

Alternate: Ortelio Fuentes, Resident

Barbara Jean Powell – Everglades Coordinating Council

Alternate: N/A

Reginald Walters – Resident, Former Miami-Dade Planner

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Alternate: N/A

Voting member Arnold Harris, Environmental Task Force for Miami-Dade County, has declined to continue participation on the team due to medical reasons.

Recently Monroe County requested a non-voting position on the Team. County Commissioner David Rice was proposed as their primary representative and county biologist Alissandra Score as his alternate.

We recommend Commissioner Rice be added as a non-voting member of the Team. We are currently exploring options to backfill the voting position held by Arnold Harris.

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Enclosure 2